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**Assistant Secretary Dina Habib Powell Announces
New U.S. Program for French Lycee Students and Teachers**

During a visit today to Sartrouville's Lycee Evariste Galois, Dina Habib Powell, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, announced a new initiative to improve American and French mutual understanding. Under an exchange program to begin in summer 2007, the U.S. Embassy in Paris will work with the Lycee to select 4 teachers and 30 students to visit the United States for 3 to 4 weeks.

The program will give exchange participants the opportunity to visit communities in the U.S. to promote Americans' understanding of the rich diversity of France, and it will enable the Lycee Evariste Galois students and teachers to better understand contemporary American society and enhance their language skills through people-to-people exchange with Americans. The program, which will be supported by U.S. Embassy Paris, will be funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Assistant Secretary Powell discussed with the Lycee students the importance of foreign language learning and the central role it must play in international communication and understanding. She noted the obvious enthusiasm for learning and teaching at the Lycee and the spirit of collaboration between students and teachers at the school. "The school's leaders, especially principal Philippe Ballé, and the community's commitment represented by the Deputy Mayor for Education Madame Granier, have created a unique educational environment. I am delighted to offer an opportunity, through exchange, to enhance the mutual understanding in both countries," she said.

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